

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /017 W  
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R 160757Z DEC 75  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 384

UNCLAS MANILA 17558O

TREASURY FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF U.S. MINT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, OTRA, RP

SUBJ: PHILIPPINE COINAGE AND THE U.S. MINT

REF: A) MANILA 12682 B) STATE 269368 C) MANILA 16135  
D) TREASURY 091641Z DEC 75

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS CALLED ON AMADO BRINAS, SENIOR DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF THE CENTRAL BANK (CB) AND SIERVO DIZON, CB CASHIER, AND DISCUSSED DESIRE OF MINT TO CONTINUE SERVING COINAGE NEEDS OF PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT. BRINAS AND DIZON EXPLAINED BACKGROUND OF DECISION TO SELECT 8-SCALLOP FIVE CENTAVO COIN AND SQUARE ONE CENTAVO COIN AS PART OF NEW COINAGE. THE INTENTION TO INTRODUCE THE NEW COINAGE WAS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED IN SEPTEMBER (SEE REF A), AND THE DECISION IS CLEARLY NOT SUBJECT TO REVIEW.

2. BRINAS SAID THAT THE U.S. MINT DOES NOT HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH NON-ROUND COIN SHAPES, WHICH HAS FORCED THE MINT TO UNDERTAKE A DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM. HE SAID THAT THE CB ALREADY HAS BIDS FROM EUROPEAN MINTS (BRINAS MENTIONED ONLY THE ROYAL MINT AND DEUTSCHE METALLE) WHICH DO HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH NON-ROUND SHAPES, AND IS NOW AWAITING A BID FROM U.S. MINT. TO COMPLY WITH U.S. MINT REQUEST FOR INFORMATION TO ASSIST IN FORMULATING BID, DIZON SAID THAT TELEGRAM LISTING QUANTITIES OF VARIOUS DENOMINATIONS NEEDED WAS SENT TO THE MINT ON DECEMBER 12.

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3. VISIT BY MINT OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS TECHNICAL AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THIS ISSUE WILL BE WELCOMED BY CB OFFICIALS. IN VIEW OF APPROACHING HOLIDAYS, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. BRINAS SAID THAT THERE IS NO GREAT URGENCY, AND SUGGESTED THE FIRST WEEK IN JANUARY. DIZON WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THAT TIME.

4. CONCERNING THE STATUS OF DIZON, HE APPEARS TO HAVE THE FULL CONFIDENCE OF BRINAS, AND IS CLEARLY IN CHARGE OF THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE MATTER. WE SUGGEST THAT MINT DEAL DIRECTLY WITH DIZON, WHO APPEARS TO HAVE WIDE LATITUDE OF AUTHORITY, AND WHO UNDOUBTEDLY KEEPS BRINAS FULLY INFORMED.

5. WITHOUT ADDRESSING OURSELVES TO THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE MATTER, IT IS OUR GENERAL IMPRESSION FROM THIS MEETING THAT THE CB IS TREATING THIS AS ESSENTIALLY A COMMERCIAL PROPOSITION, AND WILL BE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN THE BOTTOM LINE OF ANY PROPOSAL FROM THE U.S. MINT.

6. EMBASSY BELIEVES VISIT BY MESSRS VOSS AND GOLDMAN FOR DISCUSSIONS OF TECHNICAL MATTERS WOULD BE USEFUL, BUT IT SHOULD BE APPRECIATED THAT THE PRIMARY DETERMINANT OF WHETHER THE GOP AWARDS THE CONTRACT TO THE U.S. MINT WILL DEPEND MOST IMPORTANTLY ON THE COST RELATIVE TO THAT QUOTED BY OTHER POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VISITS, COINS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS (BID)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 MANILA 12682, 75 STATE 269368, 75 MANILA 16135  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2004 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PHILIPPINE COINAGE AND THE U.S. MINT  
**TAGS:** EFIN, OTRA, RP, (VOSS), (GOLDMAN)  
**To:** TRSY  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006